

EPHESIANS 5:1-20

REVIEW...

- **THE DIVISION OF THE BOOK...**
 - Chapters 1-3 - the doctrine of the blessings we have in Jesus Christ...
 - Chapter 4-6 - the practical duty we have in following Jesus Christ...
 - The key word for the last 3 chapters is 'walk'...
- **Ephesians 4:1-16** - 'Walk' worthy of the calling...
 - In light of all that God has given to us - we should walk worthy of our calling...
 - God gave gifts to help us in our walk - apostles / prophets / evangelists / pastors-teachers
- **Ephesians 4:17-32** - Do not 'walk' like those in the world...
 - Those in the world have no idea what life is all about - they are completely confused...
 - Their minds are full of darkness - and their hearts are calloused towards sin...
 - Therefore they do shameful things - never thinking about the consequences!
 - But that is not what we have learned from Jesus - through His Word...
 - We have been given a new Spirit / new attitude - we are a new man!
 - So we should walk accordingly - not lying / no longer full of anger...
 - No longer stealing / or using harsh words / forgiving others as we have been forgiven!

WALK IN LOVE... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE... vs. 1-2**
 - We are the beloved children of God - so we should act like it... vs. 1
 - If we say we are the children of God - but we look and act just like the world - problem...
 - We can say all the right things to sound like a Christian - come to church every Sunday...
 - But it is not about what we say - it is about the actions from our lives...
 - If we are the children of God - then our lives should reflect that truth...
 - We should be following after God - doing those things that show we are His kids!
 - Because we love our kids - we tend to be very protective on whom they hang out with...
 - We know too well - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "Bad company corrupts good character."
 - In the same way God wants us to be careful whom we spend time with...
 - If we 'hang out' with the wrong crowd - we are going to be negatively influenced...
 - Be very careful where you allow yourself to go - who you are identified with...
 - Choose VERY wisely whom you spend time with - we will become just like them!
 - God wants us to follow the example of Jesus... vs. 2
 - Jesus lived a life filled with love - He loved us so much He died to save us...
 - His sacrifice was a 'sweet smelling aroma' and was pleasing to God...
 - As we spend time with Jesus - then we will begin to follow His example...
 - Not living a selfish self-centered life - but giving our lives as a sacrifice to God...
 - Choosing to live in a way that others might be able to see the Love of God in us...
 - **II Corinthians 2:15** - "Our lives... a fragrance presented by Christ to God..."

- **2ND - WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE... vs. 3-14**

- The walk of love is the opposite of the walk of the world... vs. 1-7

- Love does not live in sexual immorality / uncleanness...
 - **Hebrews 13:4** - God intends intimate relationships to be only for marriage...
 - Any sexual relationship outside of marriage - is considered sexual immorality...
 - If we partake in sexual sin - we are not alone - Jesus is with us - **I Corinthians 6:15...**
 - How comfortable would you be sinning - if you realized Jesus was right next to you...
 - A life that is dominated by sexual sin - is a sign of a man who does not know God!
 - **I Thessalonians 4:3** – “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”
- Love does not live in greed - which is idolatry...
 - Because those who are greedy worship the things of this world rather than God...
 - The love of money – desire for stuff – only get us into trouble - **I Timothy 6:9-10**
 - If we desire more money – we are missing the greatest riches of all – Jesus!
 - We cannot dedicate our lives to money and possessions – and to loving Jesus...
 - We waste our life on possessions that do not last – rather than on eternal rewards!
 - Instead be content with food and clothing - **I Timothy 6:8 / our wages - Luke 3:14...**
 - **Hebrews 13:5** – “Do not covet - be content with such things as you have.”
 - We learn to be content as we experience that nothing in life satisfies us but Jesus!
 - **Philippians 4:11** – “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content...”
- Love does not fill your speech with sexual jokes / cursing...
 - Telling ‘green jokes’ - sexual humor to try and get a laugh...
 - Cursing - using swear words / or using the name of God in vain...
 - We need to be very careful what we say - the hurtful words we speak...
 - Because we will have to answer one day for every idle word - **Matthew 12:36**
- Those who do these things make excuses for them - but do not be fooled...
 - People who do not know Jesus - make all kind of excuses for their actions / words...
 - We will get married one day / I cannot go to church I need to make more money...
 - I did not mean what I said - I was just kidding - do not take it seriously...
 - Do not join in with them - because those who do these things will not go to heaven...
 - Instead the wrath of God will come upon those that practice these things!
 - Not to say that we never sin - but those who practice these things...
 - As believers – if we sin – there should be remorse – confession – repentance...
 - If there is no remorse – no repentance for sin – there is good reason for concern...
 - We cannot say we are saved and continue to live in unrepentant sin!
 - **I John 3:9** – “When people keep on sinning, it shows they belong to the Devil...”

- Whose who walk in love are full of light... vs. 8-14

- We used to be like the world - full of darkness... vs. 8-9
 - Now that we know how to live - our lives should show we are the children of light...
 - For the fruit of the Spirit is seen in goodness / righteousness / and truth!
 - We need to test ourselves - to see what kind of fruit is growing on our branches...
 - If we are still acting like (or worse) than the world around us - where is Jesus...
 - If you are wondering where your walk with the Lord is - examine yourself...
 - Stand in the light of Christ and be honest about the sin in your life...

- **I John 1:7** - "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
- We should seek to find out what is pleasing to the Lord... vs. 10, 17
 - Do not just go through life thoughtlessly - think about how to serve the Lord...
 - If you begin a new job - you can just do whatever you want - thoughtlessly...
 - But chances are your boss has expectations of you - things he wants you to do...
 - And if you ignore him / you are likely going to upset him and get fired!
 - Better to start learning about your new boss - to try and make them happy...
 - Take the time to figure out what you can do to please those we you working for!
 - In the same way we should make it our missions in life to learn how to please Jesus...
 - God has expectations of us - there are thing that He desires from our lives...
 - Do not ignore Him - or your will end up living your life in a way that displeases Him!
 - Take the time to get to know the Lord - find out what He desires from our lives...
 - Make need to make it our mission in life to learn about Jesus / His Word...
 - So that we can make sure to please the Lord will our lives!
- Instead of going along with those who sin - rebuke them / expose them... vs. 11-13
 - We are not talking about avoiding people who do not know Jesus...
 - We need to be interacting with those who do not know Jesus...
 - If we are not out in the world - we cannot show the world the hope of Jesus!
 - But though we are in the world - we should not be like the world - **John 17:15**
 - Because the things they do in secret are shameful to even talk about...
 - Instead we shine the light on their deeds so they can see how evil they really are!
 - The pictures we look at - that would never want anyone to know we have...
 - The secret sin in our heart stored away where we think no one will notice...
 - Like a cockroach that will only come out in the dark - but runs at the light...
 - Shine the light of the Word on it - confront sin in the lives of others...
 - Better to face consequences now - and learn not to sin...
 - Than to live in sin - never have anyone correct us - then end up in hell...
- Wake up! Stand up for Jesus and let His light shine through your life... vs. 14
 - Many people 'sleep walk' through life – living life with no thought of tomorrow...
 - **Romans 13:11** - "Another reason for right living is that you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."
 - Some who do not know about the Gospel - to our shame - **I Corinthians 15:34...**
 - Rather than going along with those who are a bad example...
 - Stop sinning - and start telling them about the Good News of Jesus...
- **3RD - HOW TO WALK IN LOVE... vs. 15-21**
 - Be careful how you live - make the most of every opportunity to do good... vs. 15-16
 - Do not waste a single moment - because we live in evil days...
 - We tend to fill our days with things that in the end - mean absolutely nothing...
 - We 'waste' our time 'foolishly' on being mindlessly entertained by TV / games...
 - When there is a world full of people who do not know Jesus - a world going to hell...
 - Seize the moment - use every day - to tell people about Jesus Christ!

- o Do not be drunk with wine - instead be filled with the Spirit... vs. vs. 18
 - If you are in the habit of getting drunk - stop it!
 - The Bible does not say you cannot drink- it does say it is sin to be drunk...
 - When full of alcohol you will do things you will regret (*and not remember*)...
 - So many men try and live by the 'power' of alcohol - to get through the day...
 - Many drink to forget how terrible life is - but it makes you bitter in the end...
 - The moment they sober up - the reality of their poor choice is there to greet them!
 - Because the alcohol has no power to change their lives!
 - Does that mean should never drink / even a little - do what the Holy Spirit says...
 - Can you drink – wrong question – should you drink – right question...
 - I can drink all I want – I just do not want to drink...
 - As with all things - pray and ask the Lord if He wants you drink...
 - If you can drink with a clean conscience – then no problem...
 - If the Spirit is convicting you of drinking – ask Him to take away the desire to drink...
 - **Romans 14:23** – “...for whatever is not from faith is sin.”
 - Make a wise choice - **I Corinthians 6:12**...
 - Perhaps we enjoy an occasional drink - is that sin - not in of itself...
 - But the question is can we stop - who is in control - are we or the habit...
 - If we are no longer the ones in control of our 'freedom' - it is no longer good...
 - If we want to stop - but cannot - then we are not longer in control of our lives...
 - You never hear someone say - 'my life is so much better because I drink.'
 - In contrast many have said - 'my life is much better since I stopped drinking.'
 - Instead of drinking - be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit!
 - Not just once – but over and over and over again for - asking for the Holy Spirit
 - **Luke 11:13** -"Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask..."
 - Instead of being filled with alcohol - much better to be filled with the Holy Spirit!
 - We will receive the Power of God to be able to 'walk in love'!
 - When you are full of the Spirit you will do great things for God that never fade!
 - Rather than sitting down at the drinking table - sit down to a Bible study...
- o Then we will sing psalms and hymns giving thanks to the Lord... vs. 19-20
 - So often in life - we forget to be thankful for all God has done for us - given to us...
 - We tend to think about what we think we still need - but really just 'want'...
 - If it was a need God would provide - **Luke 12:31** - if we don't have it - don't need it!
 - We overlook the simple things - food / clothing / family / a home / our health...
 - But God calls us to be thankful for all things - for all God has done for us - every day!
 - Looking at what He has giving us - not what we think we still need...
 - **I Thessalonians 5:18** - “No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”
 - The result of being filled with the Spirit - is we are full of thankfulness...
 - We walk around praising the Lord - a Psalm/song on our heart (*or hymn*)...
 - Because we have the right perspective - looking to follow the example of Jesus...
 - The walk of Love - powered by the Spirit - shining with the light of Jesus Christ!